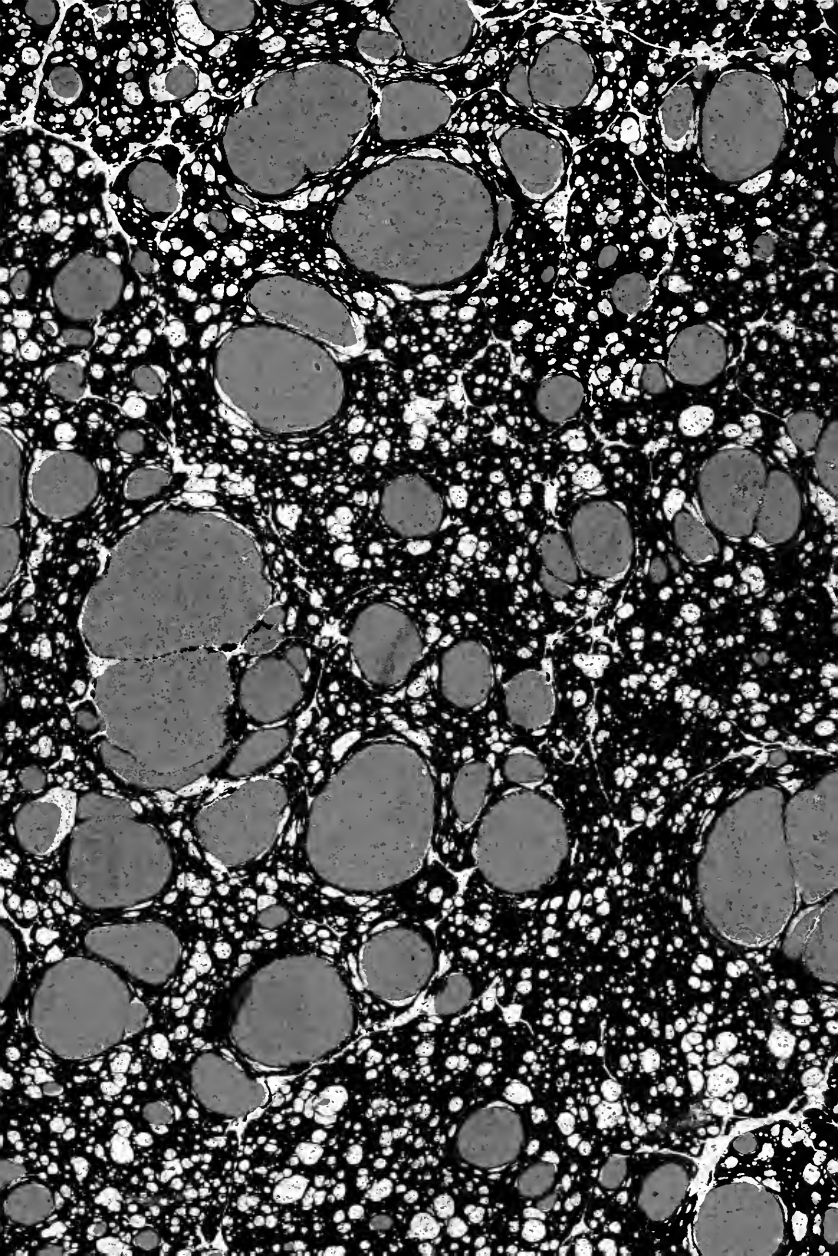


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THE
RELATION OF
the Right Honourable the Lord
De-La-Warre, ^{Thomas West, 3d Lord, 1577-1618} Lord Gouvernour
and *Captaine Generall* of the
Colonie, planted in
VIRGINEA.



LONDON
¶ *Printed by* William Hall, for
William Welbie, dwelling in Pauls Church-
yeard at the Signe of the Swan.
1611.

Day
F229
D343
1858

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4-3-55



A
SHORT RE-
lation made by the
Lord *De-La-Warre*, to the Lords
and others of the Counsell of *Virginea*,
touching his unexpected retorne home, and af-
terwards deliuered to the generall Assembly
of the said Company, at a Court holden
the twenty fve of Iune,
1611.

Published by authority of
the said Counsell.

My Lords, &c.



Eing now by accident returned
from my Charge at *Virginea*, con-
trary either to my owne desire, or
other

A Relation to the Counsel of Virginea

other mens expectations, who spare not to censure me, in point of duty, and to discourse and question the reason, though they apprehend not the true cause of my returne, I am forced, (out of a willingnesse to satisfie euery man) to deliuer vnto your Lordships, and the rest of this Assembly, briefly, (but truely) in what state I haue liued, euer since my arriual to the *Colonie*; what hath beene the iust occasion of my sudder departure thence; and in what termes I haue left the same : The rather because I perceiue, that since my coming into *England*, such a coldnesse and irresolution is bred, in many of the *Aduenturers*, that some of them seeke to withdraw those paimēts, which they haue subscribed towards the Charge of the *Plantation*, and by which that *Action* must bee supported and maintained; making this my returne,

the

by the Lord De-La-Warre.

the colour of their needlesse backwardnes
and vniust protraction. Which, that you
may the better vnderstand, I must informe
your Lordships, that presently after my ar-
riual in *Iames Towne*, I was welcommed by
a hote and violent Ague, which held mee a
time, till by the aduice of my Physition,
Doctor *Laurence Bohun*, (by blood letting)
I was recouered, as in my first Letters by
Sir *Thomas Gates* I haue informed you.
That diseafe had not long left me, til (with-
in three weekes after I had gotten a little
strength) I began to be distempered with
other greeuous sicknesse, which succes-
siuely & seuerally affailed me : for besides
a relapse into the former diseafe, which
with much more violence held me more
then a moneth, and brought me to great
weakenesse, the Flux surprised me, and kept
me

A Relation to the Counsell of Virginea

me many daies; then the Crampe assaulted my weak body, with strong paines; & afterwards the Gout (with which I had heere-tofore beene sometime troubled) afflicted mee in such fort, that making my body through weakenesse vnable to stirre, or to vse any maner of exercise, drew vpon me the disease called the Scuruy; which though in others it be a sicknesse of slothfulnesse, yet was in me an effect of weaknesse, which neuer left me, till I was vpon the point to leaue the world.

These feuerall maladies and calamities, I am the more desirous to particularise vnto your Lordships (although they were too notorious to the whole *Colonie*) lest any man should misdeeme that vnder the general name and cōmon excuse of sicknes, I went about to cloke either sloth, or feare,

or

or anie other base apprehenfion, vnworthy the high and Generall charge, which you had entrusted to my Fidelity.

In thefe extremities I refolued to confult my friends, vvho (finding Nature fpend in mee, and my body almoft confumed, my paines likewise daily encreafing) gaue me aduife to preferre a hopefull recouery, before an affured ruine, which muft neceffarily had enfued, had I liued, but twenty dayes longer, in *Virginia*: wanting at that inftant, both food and *Phyficke*, fit to remedy fuch extraordinary difeafes, and reftore that ftrength fo desperately decayed.

VWhereupon, after a long confultation held, I refolued by generall confent and perfwafion, to fhippe my felfe for

A relation to the Councill of Virginia

Meuis, an Island in the VWest Indies, famous for vvholefome Bathes, there to try what help the Heauenly Prouidence would afford mee, by the benefit of the hot Bath: But GOD, who guideth all things, according to his good will and pleasure, so provided, that after wee had sailed an hundred Leagues, wee met with Southerly windes which forced mee to change my purpose, (my body being altogether vnable to endure the tediousnesse of a long voyage) and so sterne my course for the VWestern Islands, which I no sooner recouered, then I found help for my health, and my sickenesse asswaged, by meanes of fresh diet, and especially of Orenge and Lemonds, an vndoubted remedy and medicine for that disease, which lastly, and so long, had
afflicted

afflicted mee: which ease as soone as I found, I resolued (although my body remained still feeble and weake, to returne backe to my charge in *Virginia* againe, but I was aduised not to hazard my selfe before I had perfectly recouered my strength, which by counsell I was perswaded to seeke in the naturall Ayre of my Countrey, and so I came for England. In which Accident, I doubt not but men of reason, and of iudgement will imagine, there would more danger and preiudice haue hapned by my death there, then I hope can doe by my returne.

In the next place, I am to giue account in what estate I left the *Collony* for gouernment in my absence. It may please your Lordships therefore to vnderstand,

A relation to the Councill of Virginia

that vpon my departure thence, I made choise of Captaine *George Pearcie*, (a Gentleman of honour and resolution, and of no small experience in that place) to remaine Deputie Gouvernour, vntill the comming of the Marshall Sir *Thomas Dale*, whose Commission was likewise to be determined, vpon the arriuell of Sir *Thomas Gates*, according to the intent and order of your Lordships, and the Councill here.

The number of men I left there, were vpward of two hundred, the most in health, and prouided of at least tenne moneths victuals, in their store-house, (which is daily issued vnto them) besides other helps in the Countrey, lately found out by Captaine *Argoll* by trading vvith pettie Kings in those parts, who

who for a small returne of a piece of Iron, Copper, &c. haue consented to trucke great quantities of Corne, and willingly imbrace the intercourse of Traffique, shewing vnto our people certaine signes of amitie and affection.

And for the better strengthening and securing of the *Collony*, in the time of my weaknesse there, I tooke order for the building of three seuerall Forts, two of which are seated neere *Poynt Comfort*, to which adioyneth a large Circuit of ground, open, and fit for Corne: the third Fort is at the *Falles*, vpon an Island inuironed also with Corne ground. These are not all manned, for I wanted the commoditie of Boates, hauing but two, and one Bardge, in all the Countrey, which hath beene cause that our

A relation to the Councill of Virginia

fishing hath beene (in some fort) hindered, for want of those prouisions, which easily will be remedied when vvee can gaine sufficient men to be imployed about those busineses, which in *Virginia* I found not : but since meeting with Sir *Thomas Gates* at the Cowes neere *Portsmouth* (to whom I gaue a perticular account of all my proceedings, and of the present estate of the *Collony* as I left it) I vnderstood those wants are supplied in his Fleete.

The Countrey is wonderfull fertile and very rich, and makes good whatsoeuer heretofore hath beene reported of it, the Cattell already there, are much encreased, and thriue exceedingly with the pasture of that Countrey: The Kine all this last VVinter, though the ground
was

was couered most vvith Snow, and the
season sharpe, liued without other fee-
ding then the grasse they found, vvith
which they prospered well, and many
of them readie to fall with Calue : Milke
being a great nourishment and refresh-
ing to our people, seruing also (in occa-
sion) as well for *Physicke* as for food, so
that it is no way to be doubted, but when
it shall please God that Sir *Thomas Dale*,
and Sir *Thomas Gates*, shall arriue in *Vir-
ginia* with their extraordinary supply of
one hundred Kine, and two hundred
Swine, besides store of all manner of o-
ther prouisions for the sustenance and
maintenance of the *Collony*, there vvill
appeare that succeffe in the Action as
shall giue no man cause of distrust that
hath already aduentured, but encourage
euery

A relation to the Councill of Virginia

euery good minde to further so worthy a worke, as will redound both to the Glory of GOD, to the Credit of our Nation, and to the Comfort of all those that haue beene Instruments in the furthering of it.

The last discouery, during my continuall sicknesse, was by Captaine *Argoll*, who hath found a trade with *Patamack* (a King as great as *Powhatan*, vvho still remaines our enemie, though not able to doe vs hurt.) This is in a goodly Riuer called *Patomack*, vpon the borders whereof there are growne the goodliest Trees for Mafts, that may be found elsewhere in the VVorld : Hempe better then English, growing wilde in abundance : Mines of Antimonie and Leade without our Bay to the Northward.

There

There is also found an excellent fishing Banke for Codde, and Ling as good as can be eaten, and of a kinde that will keepe a whole yeare, in Shippes hould, with little care; a tryall whereof I now haue brought ouer vvith mee. Other Islands there are vpon our Coasts, that doe promise rich merchandise, and vvill further exceedingly the establisshing of the *Plantation*, by supply of many helpes, and vvill speedily afford a returne of many vvorthie Commodities.

I haue left much ground in part manured to receiue Corne, hauing caused it the last VVinter to be sowed for rootes, vvith vvhich our people vv ere greatly releeced.

There are many Vines planted in
C diuers

A relation to the Councill of Virginia

diuers places, and doe prosper vvell, there is no vvant of any thing, if the action can be vpheld with constancy and resolution.

Laftly, concerning my felfe, and my courfe, though the VWorld may imagine that this Countrey and Climate, will (by that vvch I haue fuffered beyond any other of that *Plantation*) ill agree; vvith the ftate of my body, yet I am fo farre from fhinking or giuing ouer this honourable enterprife, as that I am vvilling and ready to lay all I am worth vpon the aduenture of the Action, rather then fo Honourable a worke fhould faile, and to returne vvith all the conuenient expedition I may, befeeching your Lordships, and the reft, not onely to excufe my former wants, happened
by

by the Lord De la VVarre.

by the Almighty hand : but to second my resolutions vvith your friendly in-deauours : that both the State may receiue Honour, your selues Profit, and future Comfort, by being imployed (though but as a weake Instrument) in so great an Action.

And thus hauing plainly, truely, and briefly, deliuered the cause of my returne, vvith the state of our affayres, as wee now stand, I hope euery vvorthy and indifferent hearer, will by comparing my present resolution of returne, with the necessitie of my comming home, rest satisfied with this true and short Declaration.

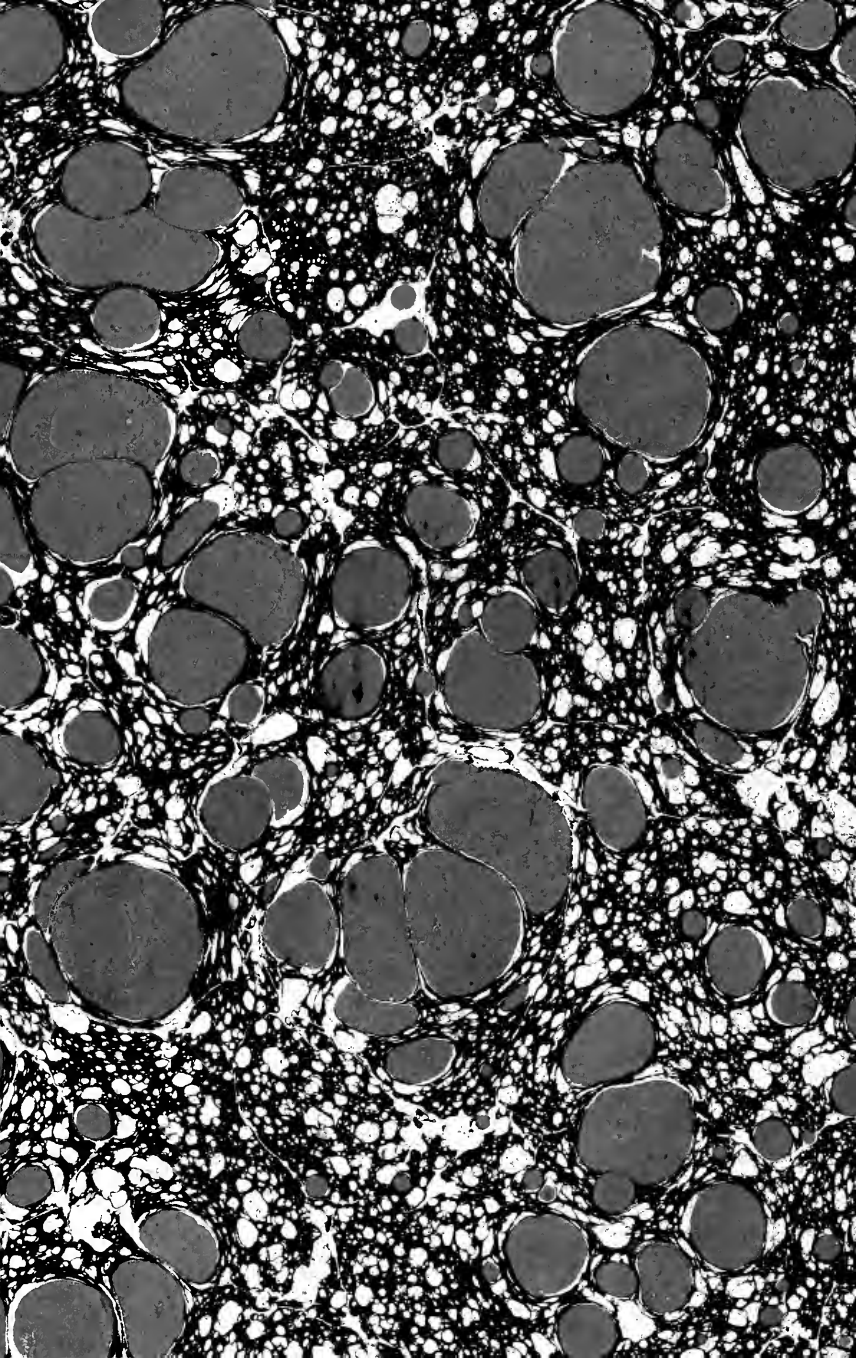
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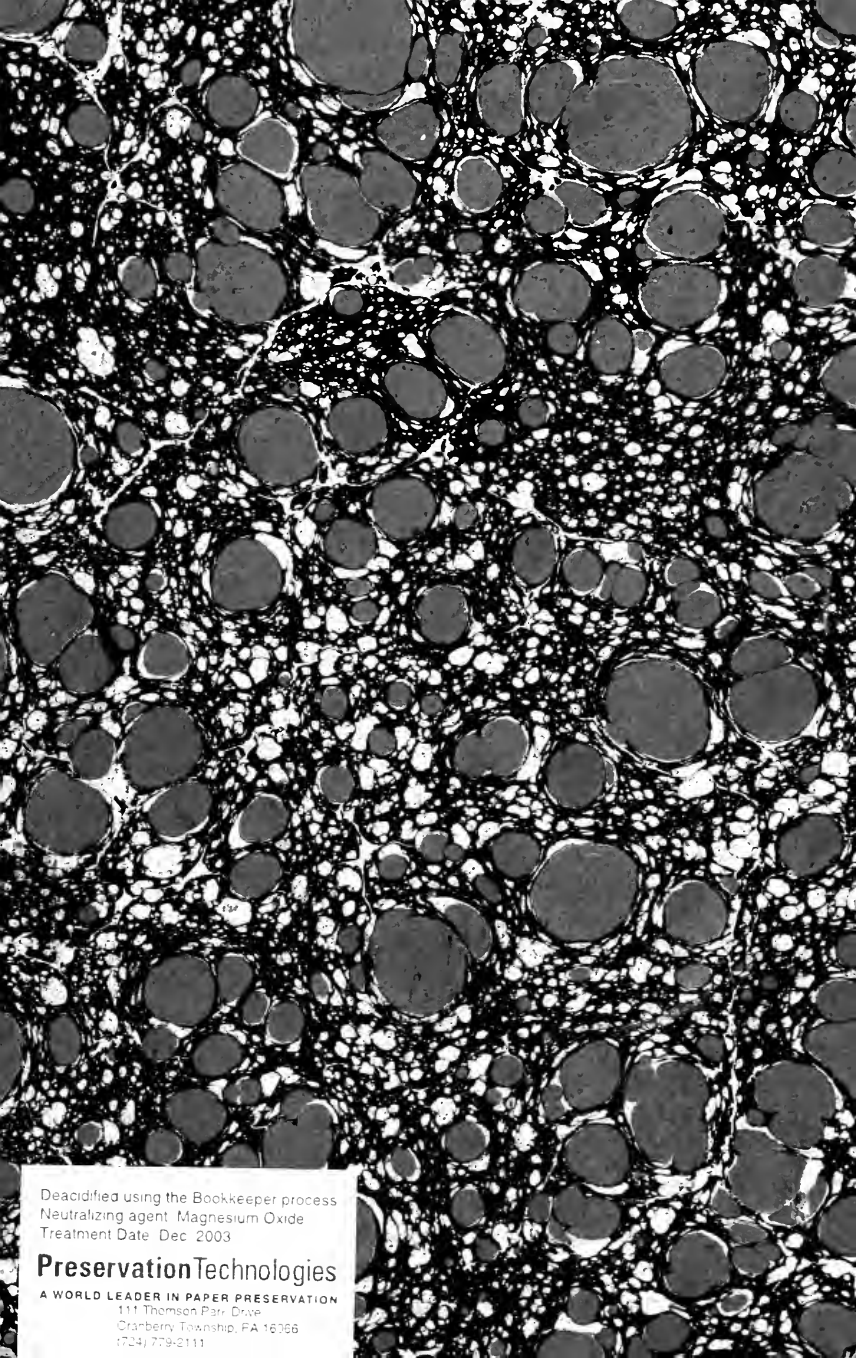
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Chancery Lane. 1858.*

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